

L.J. - Sunoco. - Thurs. Sept. 10, 1942

RUSSIA

Once again today there is little late news from Soviet Russia. We know that the battle for Stalingrad is still in full fury, with the Red Army admitting that the Nazi war machine has made some new advances. Moscow tells of Soviet troops withdrawing to several points west of the great industrial city on the Volga. Otherwise, so far as late news is concerned, a veil of concealment hides the issue of the might^y battle._^

FOLLOW RUSSIA

7

Soviet Russia today makes the headline in the news of the war of the air. Red Air Force planes have attacked enemy capitals and metropolitan centers. The capitals, ~~are~~ Berlin in Germany ~~xx~~ and Budapest in Hungary. London reports that the Soviet bombers flew as far as a thousand miles from their bases. What kind of bomber? London thinks they were of a new secret type. The Soviets are known to have a recently developed a new kind of four-motored giant, and these are believed to have been the war planes that hit Berlin and Buadpest.

Here is a question. What should we call large forces of planes that go winging to an objective? I am told of a suggestion made at a golf game, one of the participants of which was ^uHugh Bailey, President of the United Press. The golfers were trying to think up a new and modern name for an aerial striking force, and a United Press lawyer, libel expert H. H. Van ~~Atter~~ Aiken suggested:- ^{"Why not} Call it an 'air-mada,' ~~which is~~ a new variant of an old word - recalling the Spanish Armada.

^{So}
~~Well,~~ I suppose we can use the term "air-mada" to describe British air activity today. The R.A.F. staged daylight

8
raids against the Nazis in France - aerial sweeps in the broad
light ^{of} morning and afternoon. One more indication that British
and American air power is in control of the English channel.

And as for another air-mada - mark down a powerful
American raid in Egypt today, our flying fortresses struck
at the Axis port of Tobru^{q,} smashing communications and ~~destruction~~
destroying supplies.

INDIA

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill made some grave intimations today about India. He employed this phrase:-

"In the present state of affairs in India, with invasion not far off."

He said he was not referring to any particular Jap move, but was merely describing the general situation -- "invasion not far off."

Churchill spoke of a Japanese fifth column, and gave voice to the belief that the Nationalist cry for independence was inspired in part by this fifth column -- Jap influence being in the background of Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign.

MADAGASCAR

9

The new British invasion in Madagascar is designed to check activities of the enemy in those parts. Reports have been that Jap submarines were being provisioned and refueled along the West Coast of ^{that} ~~the~~ huge island. Several ~~xxxx~~ months ago, the British seized the Great Madagascar naval base of Diego Suarez, but the ~~g~~ greater part of the island of mountain and jungle remained in the control of the French Vichy authorities. So the danger of Japanese infiltration still remained. This now is ^{being} checked by a large British landing on the West coast, ~~eighteen~~ war ships covering the operation.

~~The~~ The move was made with the full approval of the United States.

NEW GUINEA

London expressed the belief that the new Jap advance in New Guinea will be checked and that the enemy will not be able to grab Port Moresby. London quotes Australian sources as stating :-

"It is clear that the Japanese drive in New Guinea has met with unexpected success but there is nothing to suggest that our forces will not be able to handle the situation." In other words, the ^{Japs}

^{have} pushed ^{far} ~~a drive~~ through mountain and jungle; but, will be stopped.

BRITISH UNIONS

Over in England, some affairs exceedingly American were headlined at a convention of the British Trade Union Congress.

Labor leader Sir Walter Citrine ^{created} raised a sensation, when he stated that the British Government had intervened to prevent a scheduled meeting of British and American Union Leaders -- the Anglo-American Trade Union Committee. On this committee are representatives of British Unions and the American Federation of Labor. The C.I.O. does not belong. And because of this there has been an acrimonious bit of controversy -- the A.F. of L. refusing to ^{include} let the C.I.O. in.

Today, at the British Trade Union convention, the point was made that the A.F. of L. was anti-Russian while the C.I.O. was pro-Russian. ~~This referred to the consistently anti-Communist stand by the Federation, which refuses to deal with Russian Unions -- claiming that they are mere pawns of the Communist Government at Moscow.~~

[†]
~~Sir Walter Citrine said: "We had hoped we could bring both the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. in relationship with Russian Trade Unionists."~~

~~However, the British Government said no. "It was~~

~~represented to us that our visit to the United States might have political consequences,"~~ said Citrine.

American affairs were still more prominent at the British Trade Union Conference when a labor leader from the United States told the British Unionists about -- a fourth term. Joseph A. Padway, general counsel for the American Federation of Labor, stated: "When the next Presidential election rolls around," said he, "The workers of the United States with one voice will demand the nomination of Roosevelt for a fourth term." ^{"And," he added,} ~~And~~ "if he can be persuaded to accept, he will be over whelmingly elected."

Another thing at the Trade Union Congress was the rejection of a ^S ~~resolution~~ ^{in favor of} ~~for~~ the immediate opening of a Second Front. "The ~~Second Fronters~~ ^{we} ~~declared that an invasion of "Nazi controlled"~~ Europe ~~was being checked by powerful British institutions who, said they, "do not like Russia even as an Ally."~~ And they mentioned Astor as an example.

λ The opposition to the resolution expressed its opinion in these words:- "You cannot open a Second Front by writing with a piece of ~~ink~~ chalk on the sidewalk." The argument was that invasion plans should be fixed by competent military authorities. And the British Labor Congress voted its approval of that.

COMMUNISTS

~~In two different parts of the country, communism is in the political news, in New York State and in Oklahoma.~~

At Albany, Governor Lehman today heard a complaint put in by the Communist Party - a protest claiming that members of the American Legion have been intimidating the signers of a communist election petition. The Red Party, to get into the election, had to ~~press~~ procure a lot of signatures. The Legion claims that part of the signatures are not valid, people repudiating them. The Communists counter by declaring that Legion members had been using threats against such people, intimidation. The local police in various New York counties are similarly accused.

Governor Lehman heard the Communist argument, and will make a decision later.

In Oklahoma, court proceedings were on today, in an attempt to ~~xxx~~ reverse the convictions of a group of communist leaders. They have each been sentenced to ten years in prison under an Oklahoma law against criminal syndicalism. The prosecution, arguing before a court of appeals, read a series

of pamphlets issued by the Communist party. These red pamphlets proclaimed the cause of class struggle and revolution. This, reasoned the prosecutor, proved that the Communist Party advocated the overthrow of the government by force and violence - thereby outlawing it under the Oklahoma law.

The convicted communists were defended by attorneys of the international labor defense of New York. Their contention was that there must be some serious danger of the overthrow of the ~~government~~ government before a person could be found guilty of criminal syndicalism.

~~Congressman Marcantonio of New York was also to have appeared in behalf of the Communists, but he failed to show ~~up~~ up. They say that he was unable to procure transportation from Washington to Oklahoma.~~

BATTLE OF MIDWAY

I have just had a look at what is said to be the first technⁱ-color film of an actual battle, the Battle of Midway, made by Commander John Ford and a number of other enlisted men and Naval Officers. Ford in ~~xviii~~ civilian life was a well-known Hollywood director. In taking the pictures, he himself was wounded by shrapnel and knocked unconscious. But, he recovered in time to go on ~~taking~~ *filming* pictures of the Jap attack.

There are many thrilling and stirring scenes in this short battle which is to be ~~xx~~ released by Twentieth Century Fox, released without cost to all distributors. So, everyone will soon be having a chance to see it.

The introduction refers to the Battle of Midway as "perhaps the greatest naval engagement in the history of the world, with a staggering number of Japanese ships destroyed, plus three hundred Japanese planes. The release of the picture will be made in connection with the current drive which the motion picture industry is making for the sale of war bonds.

Five hundred techni[^]-color prints will be run off
and rushed to various parts of the country, so that the
entire nation will have a chance to see these scenes of the
Battle of Midway. It has a certain Hollywood touch that you
may or may not like. At any rate, aside from that it ~~is~~^{'s} a
knockout.

WAFS

We already have waacs and waves, and now we are to have
WAFS. What are WAFS? In British terminology, they are ^{A.T.A.} ~~at~~ girls.
~~In England,~~ women pilots are used extensively for flying military
aircraft from one part of the island to another -- the ferry service.
Why these ladybirds are called at girls, I do not know, except that
maybe they do such a good job that Englishmen praise them with a
bit of American slang, spoken with a cockney accent, no doubt -
at girl.

Today in Washington, Secretary of War Stimson announced
that a unit of women fliers ^{will} ~~would~~ be formed to ferry army planes
from factories to airfields. This will be an experiment, to see
how well it works. The first group ^{to} ~~will~~ consist of about fifty
women. They will be recruited immediately, and the qualifications
required of them will be the same as in the case of men civilian
pilots employed in ferry service. ^{That is} The ladybirds enlisting, will have
to know their aviation.

They will be called, the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron,
the initials of which give us the new name - WAFS.

Which means
And I suppose we will soon walk up to a WAF and be very
British and say -- "Atagirl."

SAVINGS

It looks as if we soon may have -- compulsory savings.

That is to say -- we will all have to ^{devote} ~~devote~~ a percentage of our earnings to the purchase of war bonds. This was indicated today by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. He explained that the taxation plan adopted by the Senate Finance Committee won't do the job -- the ^{impost} ~~impose~~ that they call "victory tax." This embodies an element of forced saving -- but not enough, says the Secretary of the Treasury.

He added that the voluntary buying of war bonds ^{is} ~~was~~ not going ~~to~~ well enough to turn the trick. The public is not buying enough war bonds. The treasury quota for bond sales is not being met.

Hence, the program of voluntary bond buying must be ~~supplemented~~ supplemented. ^{we must have} "That means ^{forced savings} -- ~~to call it by its ugliest name,~~" said the secretary.

In explaining the basic reasons, Secretary Morgenthau put emphasis on the danger of inflation. The people of the country have too much money to spend, and there is too little for them to buy -- under war time conditions. ^{That is,} ~~There is a gap between the~~

RUBBER

6
Today the news dispatches employed the adjective -- "Blunt." They used it to describe the report handed in by the rubber investigating Committee appointed by the President. It was blunt, forthright, outspoken. The committee consists of Bernard Baruch, chairman; Carl T. Compton, President of the Massachusetts institute of technology, and James B. Conant, President of Harvard. And they state in the plainest way, that there must be nationwide gasoline rationing. That's ^{the} ~~is~~ number one result of their study of the rubber situation. ^{TP} There is no shortage of gasoline, they emphasize, but automobile driving must be curtailed, ^{to} cut down the consumption of rubber -- of which the shortage is acute. ~~indeed~~. So, ration gasoline everywhere, ^{they} ~~say~~.

7
The committee finds that the tires of civilian cars are now wearing out at a rate eight times as great as the rate at which rubber is being produced to replace them. ^{and} If this goes on, we will face an automobile collapse by nineteen forty-four. "There will be," says the committee, "An all but complete collapse of twenty-seven million passenger cars in America." And messrs. ^{Baruch,} ~~Baruch,~~ Compton and Conant summarized it this way:- "We have a choice -- discomfort or ~~death~~ defeat," say they.

In addition to nationwide rubber rationing, they recommend a thirty-five mile an hour speed limit for all automobiles. Because fast driving burns up rubber at a rapid rate, while slow driving conserves rubber.

they make concerns
Another point ~~is that of~~ synthetic rubber. They call for an expansion of the synthetic rubber production to ^a ~~one~~ million ^{and} ~~one~~ hundred thousand tons a year. And they think that the present plans for the manufacture of artificial rubber should stand pretty much as they are. ~~Don't have any~~ ^{No} basic change in the present program -- just make it bigger.

also
The committee ^{also} recommends the appointment of a national rubber administrator -- ~~one~~ man direction. They say that war production Chief Donald Nelson should appoint a rubber administrator who would have what the Committee calls "full responsibility and authority for all aspects of the rubber program."

The Committee is at its bluntest when it makes comment on the way the rubber shortage has been handled. Their report makes mention of what it calls "procrastinations, indecisions, conflict of authority, clashes of personality, lack of understanding, delays."

8

There is one bit of criticism that may sound novel -- the failure to ask the aid of Soviet Russia. Messrs Baruch, Compton and Conant state that the Soviets have been foremost in the production of synthetic rubber. And so we should have asked them about it.

We should have
learned how they do it -- learned the lessons of Russian experience in the huge production of synthetic rubber.

8/12
The committee report was presented to the President today and he recommended it highly -- and sent it along to Congress. Immediately afterward, there was word from the Office of Price Administration -- which will have the direction of nationwide gasoline rationing. This is already in effect in the eastern states; and the ~~EXPEX~~ O.P.A. states that it is ready to extend

that same rationing system to the whole nation. That will merely take a couple of weeks ^{to get going,} ~~says the O.P.A.~~

59
~~And now Hugh, will you get going?~~

And s-l-u-t-m.